DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

VZCZCMLT892 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MULT

ACTION DIA:

DISTR CJCS DJS J3:(04) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15)
SWS(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC
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MCCC CMC
CSAF WASH DC
CNO WASH DC
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~~NOFORN~~

TRANSIT/161800Z/161918Z/001:18TOR3501918
DE RUESBAA #1203 3501825
ZNY ~~CCCC~~
P 161800Z DEC 75
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
BT
~~CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN/WINTEL~~ 1203 DEC 75
THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. AR
2. CONVERSATION WITH ARGENTINE MILITARY OFFICERS (U)
3. N/A
4. 1975, DEC 12
5. 1975, DEC 12, BUENOS AIRES, ARG
6. B-2
7. PERSONAL CONTACT
8. (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. 1975, DEC 15
10. N/A
11. IR
12. (b)(3):10 USC 424
13.
14.
15. 1. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ AT A SOCIAL GATERHING ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON ARG AF BFIG CORBAT, MUCH OF THE TALK CENTERED AROUDN THE FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERIONS AND ALLIED SUBJECTS. THE GIST OF THE MORE PREVALENT OR

RECEIVED OS-4D DEC 17 2 06 PM '75 AR

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Date: Oct 17, 2018

SIGNIFICANT OPI IONS AND COMMENTS EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS ARGENTINE OFFICERS OF ALL THREE SERVICES, IN THE LTC AND COL LEVEL, FOLLOW:
A. THE ARMY HAS TAKEN OFF THE "KID GLOVES" TO FIGHT. THEY ARE ALREADY USING THE SAME "DIRTY" TACTICS OF THE ENEMY. CAPTURED GUERRILLAS ARE BEING EXECUTED ON THE SPOT OR AFTER BRIEF AND OFTEN BRUTAL INTERROGATION.
B. THE SUBVERSIVE FORCES HAVE SUPPORT AT MANY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, BOTH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL. THIS IS DEEPLY RESENTED AND PARTLY EXPLAINS WHY PRISONERS ARE NOT BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. IT IS FELT TOO MANY HAVE BEEN ACQUITTED OR SIMPLY RELEASED BY SYMPATHETHIC OR INTIMIDATED LAW OFFICERS AND JUDGES.
C. POLICE FORCES ARE PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF THE RECENT UNSOLVED MASS MURDERS ATTRIBUTED TO RIGHT WING TERRORISM.
D. THE ENEMY HAS BEEN MAULED IN THE FIELD, BUT THEY ARE STEPPING UP INFILTRATION AND DOMINANCE OF LABOR UNIONS. THIS DEVELOPMENT FURSTRATES AND WORRIES THE MILITARY. STILL, UNDER THE PRESENT CONDITIONS, THEY ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INTERVENING IN LABOR PROBLEMS, THOUGH IT IS BEGGINING TO HAPPNE.
E. IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO ATTAIN A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME THROUGH ELECTIONS (EVEN IF FAIR ELECTIONS COULD BE GUARANTEED). CHANCES ARE THE PERONISTAS WOULD AGAIN WIN, AND THE STATUS QUO REMAIN. ANOTHER POSSIBLE UNSATISFACTORY OUTCOME WOULD BE AN ELECTORAL VICTORY OF A LEFTIST COALITION.
F. THE CITIZJNRY IS SO POLARIZED THAT WHATEVER FORCE (RIGHT OR LEFT) DOMINATES AFTER THE EXPECTED COLLAPSE OF THE GOVERNMENT, WILL USE GREAT REPRESSION TO IMPOSE ITS REGIME. THE ERP/MONTONEROS ARE TRYING TO TRIGGER A MILITARY TAKEOVER BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT A "SOFT"REGIME, WHICH THEY COULD OVERPOWER IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME, WOULD EVENTUALLY ENSUE. THEY ARE MISTAKEN, FOR "... IF WE HAVE TO COME OUT, WE WILL MAKE PINOCHET LOOK LIKE A PIGMY..."
G. RE: THE ATTACK ON ARG AF BRIG CORBAT (SEE IR (b)(3):10 USC 424 DEMONSTRATES THE COMBATIVE WEAKNESS OF THE MONTONEROS. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY MONTONERO FOR "THE ERP WOULD NOT HAVE MISSED." IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY CATALOGUED AS A TOTAL FAILURE OF AN AMATEURISH ATTEMPT BY YOUNG AND UNTRIED GUERRILLAS.
2. COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ MOST OF THE CONVERSATIONS, THOUGH ANIMATED, WERE FAIRLY UNEMOTIONAL, ALMOST MATTER-OF-FACT. THE SPEAKERS TALKED OPENLY AND FREELY IN GROUPS WHICH INCLUDED

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SEVERAL FOREIGN MILATTS. THEY MAY BE WRONG ABOUT THEIR PRECEPTIONS (AFTER ALL, MOST ARE NOT PRIVY TO TOP LEVEL THINKING, PARTICULARLY CIVILIAN) BUT THEY ARE UNINHIBITED ABOUT ARTICULATING THEM. THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD W/EMBASSY.

[redacted]

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ANNOTES
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